(a) whether Transport Ministers of all States attended a meeting in New Delhi in the month of September , 2007 to discuss ways to ensure better inter-State connectivity;

(b) if so, what were the main proposals discussed;

(c) whether any final decision in implementing these agreements were also discussed; and

(d) to what extent all the State Governments have agreed to implement the suggestions taken in the meeting for better road connectivity?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Vizhinjam Port Project

*15. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the stage of the proposal for Vizhinjam Port Project in Trivandrum; and

(b) by when the work on this project is expected to start and by when its commercial operation is likely to commence?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Vizhinjam Port is a Non-Major Port. Non-Major Ports are under the overall jurisdiction of the respective State Governments. The responsibility for development of Vizhinjam Port, therefore, vests in the Government of Kerala.

New licencing policy for telecom operators

*16. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a new policy with regard to the issuing of new licences to telecom operators and for the sale of Spectrum;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, by when the same is likely to be formulated?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) The Government has decided to grant new Unified Access Services (UAS) Licences as per the existing policy. Selling/auction of 2G spectrum is not envisaged under telecom access services licences.

Waiver of bills of Faulty telephones by BSNL

*17. SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD: will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether BSNL consumers have to pay their telephone bills despite their telephone connections remaining out of order for months together;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of provisions/guidelines/orders in this regard; and